

# Kalabari language

**Kalabari** is an Ijo language of Nigeria spoken in Rivers State and Bayelsa State.<sup>[3]</sup> Its three dialects are mutually intelligible. The Kalabari dialect (Kalabari proper) is one of the best-documented varieties of Ijo, and as such is frequently used as the prime example of Ijo in linguistic literature.

As of 2005, the language, "spoken by 258,000 people, [was] endangered largely because of the massive relocation that has taken place in the area due to the development of Nigeria's oil industry in the Port Harcourt region."<sup>[4]</sup>

The Kalabari language became the basis of Berbice, a Dutch Creole spoken in Eastern Guyana.<sup>[5]</sup>

Kalabari language words have been proposed for some modern technical terms.<sup>[6]</sup>

## See also

- Defaka word list (Wiktionary)

## References

- Kalabari (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ijn/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015) Ibani (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/iby/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015) Kirike (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/okr/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
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Kalabari	
Ibani–Kalabari–Kirike	
Native to	Nigeria
Region	Rivers State
Ethnicity	Kalabari, Ibani
Native speakers	(570,000 cited 1989–1995) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Ijoid<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ijaw<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>East<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Kalabari</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Dialects	Kalabari <p>Ibani (Bonny)</p>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: <p>ijn – Kalabari</p> <p>iby – Ibani</p> <p>okr – Kirike</p>
Glottolog	kaki1246 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kaki1246">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kaki1246</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

## External links

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- [Kalabari - English Dictionary \(https://www.academia.edu/3816756/Kalabari\\_Dictionary\)](https://www.academia.edu/3816756/Kalabari_Dictionary)
- Braide, Pastor Daiwari. *Kalabari Children's Dictionary* (<http://kalabari.grahamobene.org/buykd/>). Retrieved 2013-06-15.
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